

# VOLTAIRE



CANDID\*:  
OR, THE  
OPTIMIST.  
PART I.

CHAP. I.

*How Candid was brought up in a magnificent castle; and how he was driven from thence.*

**I**N the country of Westphalia, in the castle of the most noble baron of Thunder-ten-tronckh, lived a youth, whom Nature had endowed with a most sweet disposition. His face was the true index of his mind. He had a solid judgment joined to the most unaffected simplicity; and hence I presume he had his name of Candid. The old servants of the

\* The principal design of this performance, (if the author had any other design but that of amusing his readers) is to ridicule that maxim in Ethics, that every thing which happens, is the best calculated to answer the wise ends of Providence: but it likewise contains a very severe satire on the morals, manners, and customs of mankind.

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## Candide

by Voltaire (1694-1778)

Candide is a relentless, brutal assault on government, society, religion, education, and, above all, optimism. Dr. Pangloss teaches his young students Candide and Cunegonde that

everything in this world is for the best, a sentiment they cling to as the world steps in to teach them otherwise. The novel is brilliant, hilarious, blasphemous. . . and Voltaire never admitted to writing it.

Total running time: 4:04:49

Read by Ted Delorme

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney  
Frontispiece and first page of an early English translation by T. Smollett et al of "Candide", printed by J. Newbery, 1762

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